

PRESIDENT: All right. Thank you.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I'd like to thank Senator Abboud. I probably should mention in closing here that there are a number of senators here in the body who have been very helpful with this process over the years, Senator Abboud being one of them who has had a long interest in this particular issue. He is correct in citing that Nebraska is the only state that regulates on a municipal level and there were times last year when we were ready to throw up our hands and say maybe that system isn't working, but thanks to the individuals from the gas industry who have recognized that, yes, there is a problem that needs to be addressed and they have worked very, very hard on this issue, and thanks to those folks from the League of Municipalities who also recognized that there is a problem. It is probably not going to get resolved unless it is resolved in an agreed to fashion and special thanks to Senator Hartnett and Senator Landis and to Senator Korshoj for picking this as his priority bill. I think we're on the verge of a very, very good piece of legislation. I should point out that all parties that lobby on this bill have agreed to this procedural recommendation here, and, again, reviewing what we are suggesting you do, advance 663 as a statement that, yes, we're going to pass a natural gas regulatory bill this session. When the amendments come up on Select File you'll have a chance to look at those, debate those, amend those, reject those, do whatever you want. If we don't get the amendments drafted in an agreed to fashion then this bill is going to be held on Select File. The bill will not be forced through in its current form this session. I would urge you to advance this bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on the advancement of the bill. Record, Mr. Clerk, please. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 663.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. Do you have anything to put in, Mr. Clerk, at this time?

CLERK: No, sir, I do not.

PRESIDENT: Okay, we'll move on to General File, LB 375.